

Home Visiting Task Force Meeting

April 23, 2013

1:00-3:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Claudia Baier, Molly Baltman, Anita Berry, Jeanna Capito, Claire Dunham, Donna Emmons, Jill Garbaliuskas, Melanie Garrett, Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Kathy Goetz-Wolfe, Azucena Gonzalez, Roy Harley, Leslie Janes, Christine Johnson, Colleen Jones, Teeneka Jones, Teresa Kelly, Kathy Kern, Bahakia Madison, Julia Marynus, Beth Mascitti-Miller, John McDonnell, Gregory O'Donnell, Matt Poes, Claudia Quigg, Nancy Radner, Diana Rauner (co-chair), Vanessa Rich, Ralph Schubert, Mary Salisbury, Lesley Schwartz, Christy Serrano, Glendean Sisk, Penny Smith, Sheryl Stoller, Joanna Su, Sue Swisher, Vikki Thompson, Anna Torsney-Weir, Jacob Vigil, Janelle Weldin-Frisch, Whitney Walsh, Granada Williams, Jay Young, Cindy Zumwalt

Welcome and Introductions

- The Task Force welcomed Theresa Hawley, Vanessa Rich, and Beth Mascitti-Miller as new members of the Home Visiting Task Force and Executive Committee; and welcomed presenters Matt Poes from CPRD, and presenters from the Cicero MIECHV Community.
- Granada Williams asked to be added to the January meeting minutes as being present. Teresa Kelly motioned to approve the January 29th meeting minutes with that change, Granada Williams seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

State and Federal Updates

- **State Updates:** There are no major updates on the state budget and legislative process since the last meeting, where it was announced that Governor Quinn proposed level funding for home visiting programs funded in DHS and ISBE.
- **FY13 Federal Budget and Sequestration:** The U.S. Congress approved the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 933), which provides funding for the remainder of FY 2013 (Mar. 27-Sept. 30). President Obama is expected to sign this bill into law. This legislation locks in sequestration for FY 2013. It also provides funding for most federal agencies at FY 2012 levels minus a small across the board reduction. All grants funded via formula should expect at least a 5 percent reduction as a result of sequestration. For the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant after sequestration and the small across the board cut AMCHP projects the new baseline for FY 2013 could be \$606M or less. Also due to sequestration, MIECHV will be cut by \$20M. However, this bill does provide increased funding for some agencies and programs. Specifically:
 - National Institutes of Health +\$71M
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) +\$150M
 - Child Care and Development Block Grants +\$50M
 - Head Start +\$33.5M

While an important accomplishment in this budget climate, these programs will still suffer net reductions due to sequestration. Importantly, for WIC the funding increase along with unspent SNAP transfer funds, contingency funds, and unspent recovered funds means that WIC will likely be able to manage through the rest of the fiscal year without cutting any participants.

Regarding how sequestration will impact MIECHV in Illinois, the state has been told there is a 5.1% cut for formula and competitive grants. GOECD has had financial phone calls with all agencies to

look at spending patterns – those that have been under-spending will return the money to offset the loss.

- **FY14 Federal Budget and Obama's Early Childhood Proposal:** President Obama released his FY14 budget proposal on April 10th. In line with proposals from his State of the Union address, Obama's budget includes a proposal for \$77 billion in spending to expand early childhood education that would be financed by nearly doubling the federal tobacco tax to \$1.95 from \$1.01 per pack of cigarettes. The plan invests in parents, infants and toddlers, and four-year-olds. The plan:
 - expands voluntary home visiting programs that offer parents education and support, because parents are children's first teachers and central to their children's development (an additional \$11 billion over the next 10 years);
 - expands high-quality child care for infants and toddlers — which is in short supply in communities across the country — by investing in partnerships between Early Head Start and child care programs (\$1.4 billion in 2014); and
 - will give all children in low- and moderate-income families access to high-quality prekindergarten programs (\$66 billion over the next 10 years). Expanded prekindergarten will be funded through a cigarette tax, which will have the added benefit of reducing smoking among older children. This will be a partnership between the federal government and states.
 - For parents, infants, and toddlers, and preschoolers, the plan helps low-income families maintain access to child care assistance by providing an additional \$500 million in mandatory funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and helps states improve the quality of care by providing an additional \$200 million in discretionary CCDBG funding.

Note that this is a proposal and must still go through House and Senate budget processes, but it shows that Obama is interested in this and is investing political capital behind it.

MIECHV Updates

- **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI): Matt Poes, CPRD**
 - The CQI process that will be implemented through MIECHV focuses on improving implementation and outcomes using a set of statistical tools to improve practice, with an ongoing cycle of feedback that emphasizes maintaining quality in the future. It is different from quality assurance in that it uses data to drive improvements in practice, versus being solely about accountability.
 - The ultimate goal is to create an attitude towards quality among home visitors. Quarterly reports at the state level will come to the Home Visiting Task Force, and information will be distributed to providers.
- **Mothers and Babies:** This is an add-on to models developed by Johns Hopkins to help mothers at-risk of maternal depression, in which the home visitor uses a specific group model and then reinforces it during weekly home visits. Before sequestration, the hope was to make this a training that would be rolled out across the state. If the model picks up, there should be a presentation on it at a future Task Force meeting.

Innovations in Quality Illinois Home Visiting Summits: Jeanna Capito

- Two summits were held in April in Naperville and Bloomington with nearly 600 people across both locations, which represents 60% of the home visiting capacity in the state. The summits included representatives from across the state, across models and funding streams, and across occupations.

- The summits engaged multiple levels of home visitors in conversations about quality, with breakout sessions focused on different aspects of quality, e.g. assessing quality. The summits, which were funded by a SAC grant that ends April 30, were designed to get information from audiences, with the goal being to create a white paper furthering recommendations about what systems in Illinois need to look like.
- Keynote presentations included CQI and professional development as a key function of delivery of quality, including the launch of the Early Learning Guidelines as a tool for professional development.

Update from Cicero MIECHV Community: Jennifer Froemel, John McDonnell, Mariana Osorio

- Representatives from the Cicero MIECHV community presented to the Task Force on what they are learning through the implementation of MIECHV, what challenges they are facing, and what are the implications for the statewide home visiting system.
- One of the unique aspects of the Cicero community is the significant size and influence of the Latino community. 86% of the Cicero population is Latino and 20% of children under 5 live in poverty. Agencies are seeing an increase in Latinos looking for services, and are in response trying to ensure that there are bilingual, bicultural programs. In general, families have responded very well to home visiting.
- Agencies in the Cicero community have been collaborating for ten years: building upon existing strengths of organizations, recognizing one another's work, etc. There is also an historical precedent for working together on the Cicero Youth Task Force.
- Due to the good reception for home visiting, there were waiting lists for services before MIECHV.
- MIECHV offered the opportunity to expand access and to put boots on the ground with collaboration, e.g. coordinated intake worker and community system developer.
- **Challenges:**
 - Meeting benchmarks, especially with first time mothers and pregnant mothers because there are already programs in high schools that serve those populations and there is no hospital in the community;
 - Shifting healthcare system with hospital administrative changes: this is a common problem in dealing with hospitals and legal issues, and should be taken to HRSA to find out if they are hearing about this as well; and
 - Families have much more complex issues than they did 6 years ago, e.g. domestic violence, isolation, separation, more extreme poverty.

Wrap Up and Next Steps: The next full Home Visiting Task Force meeting is July 26th from 10:00am-12:00pm. We will have more updates on the state and federal budgets, as well as a presentation from another MIECHV community.